

X<sub>9</sub> is either absent or represents: Met or a non-natural derivative of Met selected from methionine sulfone (Met(O<sub>2</sub>)); Gln or a non-natural derivative of Gln selected from homoglutamine (HGln); Leu or a non-natural derivative of Leu selected from homoleucine (HLeu) or norleucine (Nle); Lys; Ile; t-butyl-alanine (tBuAla); or homoserine-methyl (HSe(Me));

X<sub>10</sub> represents: Pro; Lys or a non-natural derivative of Lys selected from acetyl-lysine (KAc or Lys(Ac)); Arg or a non-natural derivative of Arg selected from 2-amino-4-guanidinobutyric acid (Agb), homoarginine (HArg) or N-methyl-homoarginine; Glu; Ser; Asp; Gln; Ala; hydroxyproline (HyP); or cysteic acid (Cya);

X<sub>11</sub> represents: Asn or a non-natural derivative of Asn selected from N-methyl-asparagine; Thr; Asp; Gly; Ser; His; Ala or a non-natural derivative of Ala selected from thienyl-alanine (Thi), 2-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-alanine (1,2,4-TriAz) or Beta-(4-thiazolyl)-alanine (4ThiAz); Lys; or cysteic acid (Cya);

X<sub>12</sub> represents: Trp or a non-natural derivative of Trp selected from azatryptophan (AzaTrp), 5-fluoro-L-tryptophan (5FTrp) or methyl-tryptophan (TrpMe); or Ala or a non-natural derivative of Ala selected from 1-naphthyl alanine (1-Nal) or 2-naphthyl alanine (2-Nal);

X<sub>13</sub> represents: Ser or a non-natural derivative of Ser selected from homoserine (HSer); Ala; Asp; or Thr;

X<sub>14</sub> represents: Trp or a non-natural derivative of Trp selected from azatryptophan (AzaTrp); Ser; Ala or a non-natural derivative of Ala selected from 2-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-alanine (1,2,4-TriAz), 1-naphthyl alanine (1-Nal) or 2-naphthyl alanine (2-Nal); Asp; Phe or a non-natural derivative of Phe selected from 3,4-dihydroxy-phenylalanine (DOPA); Tyr; Thr or a non-natural derivative of Thr selected from N-methyl-threonine; tetrahydropyran-4-propanoic acid (THP(O)); or dioxo-4-tetrahydrothiopyranylacetic acid (THP(SO<sub>2</sub>));

X<sub>15</sub> represents Pro or a non-natural derivative of Pro selected from azetidine (Aze), pipecolic acid (Pip) or oxazolidine-4-carboxylic acid (Oxa);

X<sub>16</sub> represents: Ile or a non-natural derivative of Ile selected from N-methyl-isoleucine (NMelle); Ala or a non-natural derivative of Ala selected from 3-cyclohexyl-alanine (Cha) or cyclopropyl-alanine (Cpa); Pro or a non-natural derivative of Pro selected from hydroxyproline (HyP); Asp; Lys; cyclopentyl-glycine (C5A); tetrahydropyran-4-propanoic acid (THP(O)); or dioxo-4-tetrahydrothiopyranylacetic acid (THP(SO<sub>2</sub>));

X<sub>17</sub> represents: Trp or a non-natural derivative of Trp selected from azatryptophan (AzaTrp) or 5-fluoro-L-tryptophan (5FTrp); Phe; Tyr; 1-naphthyl alanine (1-Nal); or 2-naphthyl alanine (2-Nal);

HyP represents hydroxyproline, 1-Nal represents 1-naphthyl alanine, 2-Nal represents 2-naphthyl alanine, HArg represents homoarginine and C<sub>i</sub>, C<sub>ii</sub> and C<sub>iii</sub> represent first, second and third cysteine residues, respectively or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. The peptide ligand as defined in claim 4, wherein said loop sequences comprise three cysteine residues separated by two loop sequences the first of which consists of 3 amino acids and the second of which consists of 9 amino acids, and said peptide ligand comprises an amino acid sequence selected from:

(SEQ ID NO: 41)

C<sub>i</sub>-X<sub>6</sub>-X<sub>7</sub>-X<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>ii</sub>-X<sub>9</sub>-X<sub>10</sub>-X<sub>11</sub>-X<sub>12</sub>-

X<sub>13</sub>-X<sub>14</sub>-X<sub>15</sub>-X<sub>16</sub>-X<sub>17</sub>-C<sub>iii</sub>;

wherein X<sub>6</sub> to X<sub>17</sub> are as defined in claim 4.

6. The peptide ligand as defined in claim 4 or claim 5, wherein:

X<sub>6</sub> represents: Pro or a non-natural derivative of Pro selected from azetidine (Aze), hydroxyproline (HyP), 4-amino-proline (Pro(4NH)), oxazolidine-4-carboxylic acid (Oxa), octahydroindolecarboxylic acid (Oic) or 4,4-difluoroproline (4,4-DFP)m such as Pro; and/or

X<sub>7</sub> represents: Phe or a non-natural derivative of Phe selected from 3-methyl-phenylalanine (3MePhe), 4-methyl-phenylalanine (4MePhe), homophenylalanine (HPhe), 4,4-biphenylalanine (4,4-BPA) or 3,4-dihydroxy-phenylalanine (DOPA); Ala or a non-natural derivative of Ala selected from 1-naphthylalanine (1-Nal), 2-naphthylalanine (2-Nal) or 2-pyridylalanine (2Pal), such as Phe or 1-naphthylalanine (1-Nal), in particular 1-naphthylalanine (1-Nal); and/or

X<sub>8</sub> represents Asp, Arg, Lys or cysteic acid (Cya), such as D-Asp, D-Arg, D-Lys or D-Cya, in particular D-Asp; and/or

X<sub>9</sub> represents: Met or a non-natural derivative of Met selected from methionine sulfone (Met(O<sub>2</sub>)); or Leu or a non-natural derivative of Leu selected from homoleucine (HLeu) or norleucine (Nle), such as Met or Leu, in particular Met; and/or

X<sub>10</sub> represents Arg or a non-natural derivative of Arg selected from 2-amino-4-guanidinobutyric acid (Agb), homoarginine (HArg) or N-methyl-homoarginine; or cysteic acid (Cya), such as homoarginine (HArg) or cysteic acid (Cya) (such as D-Cya), in particular homoarginine (HArg); and/or

X<sub>11</sub> represents: Asn or a non-natural derivative of Asn selected from N-methyl-asparagine; Asp; or His; or cysteic acid (Cya), such as Asn, Asp, His or cysteic acid (Cya) (such as D-Cya), in particular Asp; and/or

X<sub>12</sub> represents: Trp or a non-natural derivative of Trp selected from azatryptophan (AzaTrp), 5-fluoro-L-tryptophan (5FTrp) or methyl-tryptophan (TrpMe), such as Trp; and/or

X<sub>13</sub> represents Ser or a non-natural derivative of Ser selected from homoserine (HSer), such as Ser; and/or

X<sub>14</sub> represents Thr or a non-natural derivative of Thr selected from N-methyl-thyronine, such as Thr; and/or

X<sub>15</sub> represents Pro; and/or

X<sub>16</sub> represents: Ile or a non-natural derivative of Ile selected from N-methyl-isoleucine (NMelle); or Pro or a non-natural derivative of Pro selected from hydroxyproline (HyP), such as Ile; or Pro or a non-natural derivative of Pro selected from hydroxyproline (HyP), in particular Ile, Pro or hydroxyproline (HyP), more particularly hydroxyproline (HyP); and/or

X<sub>17</sub> represents Trp or a non-natural derivative of Trp selected from azatryptophan (AzaTrp) or 5-fluoro-L-tryptophan (5FTrp), such as Trp.

7. The peptide ligand as defined in any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein said loop sequences comprise three cysteine residues separated by two loop sequences the first of which consists of 3 amino acids and the second of which consists